

the sardine canneries are closed, it will seldom be found desirable to fish them) the gates can be left open and the fish can escape as easily as they enter.

The principal point in favor of the proposed law is, I think, found in the fact that the small herring are very poor during the winter months, and those canned at that time, being of inferior quality, seriously injure the reputation of American sardines. If the Maine canners would buy only good fish and pack them in better oil the prejudice against "hering sardines" would soon wholly disappear, and the demand for them would be greatly increased.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 30, 1883.*

103.—SHAD WORK IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

By C. J. HUSKE.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

In March our attention was directed to the shad station on the Edisto River. Last season we constructed a rough frame building at the base of a small pond fed by springs from the neighboring hills. The tin hatching cones were fed by surface water at an elevation of 10 feet. This season we added two glass hatching jars, thus making the capacity 2,000,000 per week.

Shad fishing begins on the Edisto River early in January and continues until the first of April. Between 35 and 40 gill-nets are employed in a distance of 8 miles and just within tide water. They average to catch 350 fish per net. Shad fishing is done between the night tides and mostly after midnight. During the day the water is so very clear as to render gill-nets unavailing.

We rarely, if ever, find ripe eggs. A large number of shad were handled in a half-ripe condition. The eggs when forced came in clots. A large per cent. were apparently ripe and were impregnated on coming in contact with the milt. The greater number, however, had no appearance of being ripe, were small, hard, and perfectly white. We succeeded in obtaining a small number of eggs and planted 440,000 fry in the Edisto. I visited the Savannah River at Augusta and the North Fork of the Edisto River during the month of April, and found the catch very small. The 500,000 fry which I procured from you in May were planted in Broad River at the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railroad crossing. These were in fine condition when released, the loss in transportation not exceeding 3,000. Active operations in this State have been going on for so short a time that the results are as yet comparatively small, but the enthusiasm of our citizens is widespread.

COLUMBIA, S. C., *June 1, 1882.*